

Fundamentals of Family - Based Immigration Law-

*“What I wish I would have
known...”*

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Introduction

A common misconception among legal practitioners is that family based immigration law is little more than filling out forms. Yet each day we see cases where a family is facing lifetime exile from the United States because they relied on the advice and help of a non-attorney who is less than qualified to represent them in the immigration process.

Many such unqualified legal advisors are called “notarios.” Often when an applicant relies on a notario to help fill out a form requesting admission to the United States, the applicant later falls into immigration trouble due to the erroneous information sworn to by the applicant on the application. Those legal pitfalls can be avoided by knowing where the traps lay and how to avoid them.

This paper is intended as a guide and resource for practitioners of all levels. We have pulled together the most common questions that arise out of several key applications and processes. It has been our experience that every now and then one must go back to the very basics to make sure one remembers how to fill out a form, what the packet should look like, and where the packet should be filed. This guide is by no means all-inclusive, but it is a solid outline and reference tool for the most commonly used forms for the family based immigration practitioner.

Melissa, Melissa &

Michelle
